

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

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TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

S E C R E T STATE 302053

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, MOPS, CU, AD

SUBJECT: CUBAN MILITARY INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA; REPORT
NUMBER 5

REF: STATE 300139

FOR AMBASSADOR OR CHARGE FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

UPDATE ON REFERENCED SUBJECT FOLLOWS:

A. AN AIRCRAFT THAT CUBA HAS USED TO FLY TROOPS AND EQUIP-
MENT TO ANGOLA FLEW TO THE AZORE ISLANDS ON THE NIGHT OF
19-20 DECEMBER 1975 WITH 110 PEOPLE ABOARD. THE AIRCRAFT
RETURNED TO CUBA ON THE NIGHT OF 21-22 DECEMBER. THE
GOVERNMENTS OF BARBADOS AND OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO HAVE
TOLD THE CUBANS THAT CUBAN AIRCRAFT SUPPORTING MILITARY
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OPERATIONS IN ANGOLA CANNOT USE THEIR AIRPORTS. THE

CUBANS MAY BE ATTEMPTING TO USE THE AZORES AS A REFUELING POINT FOR THEIR AIRCRAFT CARRYING TROOPS AND SUPPLIES TO ANGOLA.

B. AS OF 25 NOVEMBER 1975, CUBAN SHIPS THAT ARE BELIEVED TO BE INVOLVED IN SUPPORT OF OPERATIONS IN ANGOLA WERE LOCATED AS FOLLOWS: THE "CERRO PELADO," THE "IMIAS," THE "EL JIGUE," AND THE "SIERRA MAESTRA" WERE AT SEA AND THE "CORAL ISLANDS" WAS LOADING COFFEE IN LUANDA, ANGOLA. AT THE SAME TIME, THE "FRANK PAIS" WAS SCHEDULED TO LOAD 3,500 METRIC TONS OF GENERAL CARGO FOR THE CANARY ISLANDS. TWO OTHER SUSPECT MERCHANT SHIPS, THE "VIETNAM HEROICO" AND THE "XX ANIVERSARIO," MAY HAVE COME UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE CUBAN ARMED FORCES. THE "AGATE ISLANDS" WAS BELIEVED TO BE ENROUTE TO ANGOLA ON 17 DECEMBER.

C. ON 16 DECEMBER, TROOPS OF THE POPULAR MOVEMENT FOR THE LIBERATION OF ANGOLA (MPLA) IN THE QUIBALA AREA (11-25 S, 15-07 B) AND THEIR CUBAN SUPPORTERS SEEMED TO BE CAUGHT IN A TWO PRONGED ATTACK BY FORCES OF THE NATIONAL UNION FOR THE TOTAL INDEPENDENCE OF ANGOLA (UNITA).

D. CUBA HAS GIVEN TANZANIA THE EQUIVALENT OF APPROXIMATELY U.S. \$42,800 TO OFFSET THE COST OF TRAINING MPLA SOLDIERS IN TANZANIA. THE SOVIET UNION AND THE CONGO (BRAZZAVILLE) HAVE ALSO PROVIDED MONEY TO OFFSET THE COST OF SUCH TRAINING.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERVENTION, MILITARY TRAINING, MILITARY AIRLIFTS, SHIP MOVEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE302053
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WLSIMMONS:YT
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750446-0875
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751215/aaaaamgf.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 76 STATE 300139
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 AUG 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <09 DEC 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CUBAN MILITARY INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA: REPORT NUMBER 5
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, MOPS, CU, AO, UR
To: ALL POSTS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006